

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MC-02 OMB-01 NEAE-00

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P 161545Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3078

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

COMFAIRMED

COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: SOUDA AB MILCON PROGRAM

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR 011828Z APR 74 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN U.S. NAVY DECISION TO REFRAIN FROM PLACING SOUDA AB CONTRACTS UNDER CONTRACT PENDING EXECUTION OF NEW AGREEMENT, WE REGARDED THIS AS PRUDENT STEP UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES BROUGHT ABOUT BY IRREGULAR REPLACEMENT OF GOG ON NOVEMBER 25. EMBASSY RECOMMENDED CONCENTRATION OF NEGOTIATING ACTIVITY ON SOUDA AB PRECISELY BECAUSE OF NEED TO ASSURE CONTINUED USE OF THIS FACILITY REGARDLESS OF STATE OF PLAY ON REMAINDER OF HOMEPORTING-RELATED FACILITIES, AND WE WILL STRIVE TO RESOLVE SOUDA AB ISSUES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. AS ALL ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE REALIZED FROM STUDY OF MARCH 22 FONOFF REDRAFT OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT, MAJOR NEW PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN ADDITION TO RETENTION OF MOST OF CONTENTIOUS PROVISIONS OF EARLIER HAF DRAFT. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE FROM USG POINT OF
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VIEW, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF QUICK CONCESSIONS BY FONOFF

IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO ANTICIPATE RAPID CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATION. FAILURE TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON ISSUES COULD RESULT IN GOG REVERSION TO "DEADLINE" TACTICS, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HOPES THAT LT.GEN. PAPANICOLAOU'S CONCENTRATION ON SIGNING UP FOR ACQUISITION OF NEW AIRCRAFT WILL KEEP HIM EFFECTIVELY OUT OF EQUATION.

3. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO INITIATING CONSTRUCTION MIGHT BE PREFERABLE. RESULTS OF INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WILL FOLLOW FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF ANTICIPATED STATE/DEFENSE GUIDANCE SHOULD INDICATED WHETHER ABOVE PRGNOSIS IS ACCURATE AND THEREBY PROVIDE FIRMER BASIS FOR U.S. NAVY DECISION ON QUESTION OF RESUMING ACTIONS ON CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AT SOUDA AB.
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